

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, comprising:

setting up any new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, when a criterion is met, by setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber terminal, instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a decision whether the new bearer is required or whether said existing bearer is to be used is made by the network according to said criterion.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said criterion is a preference of a user of said subscriber terminal.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, comprising:

setting up any new call in an existing multicall, when a criterion is met, by setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls, instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer, and

indicating in a call setup signalling from said subscriber equipment to said network whether the new bearer is required or whether said existing bearer is to be used.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising indicating in a call setup signalling which existing bearer is to be used.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said indicating comprises indicating in the call setup signalling a bearer ID of the existing bearer to be used.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising allocating a dedicated bearer to the new call by a default by the network if a user does not indicate in the call setup any existing bearer to be used.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising changing a call currently being on a shared bearer to use a new dedicated bearer.

9. (Previously presented) A method of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, comprising:

setting up any new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, according to a criterion, either by

(i) setting up said new call on a new bearer, or

(ii) setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, and

changing a call currently being on a shared bearer to use a new dedicated bearer, wherein said changing comprises

(iii) sending, from the subscriber equipment to the network, a call setup message containing a transaction identifier of said call currently on the shared bearer and an indication that a new dedicated bearer is requested, and

(iv) allocating in response to said call setup message, a new dedicated bearer and transferring the call indicated by the transaction identifier received to said allocated bearer by the network.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising changing a call currently using a dedicated bearer to use another bearer shared with at least another call.

11. (Previously presented) A method of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, comprising:

setting up any new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, according to a criterion, either by

(i) setting up said new call on a new bearer, or

(ii) setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, and

changing a call currently using a dedicated bearer to use another bearer shared with at least one other call, wherein said changing comprises

(iii) sending, from the subscriber equipment to the network, a call setup message containing a transaction identifier of said call having the dedicated bearer and a bearer ID indicating the shared bearer to be used, and

(iv) transferring, by the network in response to said call setup message, the call indicated by the transaction identifier received to said existing bearer.

12. (Previously presented) A method of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunication network and a subscriber terminal, comprising:

setting up any new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, according to a criterion, either by

(i) setting up said new call on a new bearer, or

(ii) setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, and

putting an existing call on an existing bearer of said multicall into a hold mode prior to setting up said new call on said existing bearer.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising alternating the calls on a shared bearer between an active mode and said hold mode by a user.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein said alternating comprises sending a hold message containing a transaction identifier of a call in order to put the respective call on hold.

15. (Previously presented) A method of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, comprising:

offering a new subscriber-equipment-terminating call to a user by means of a call waiting supplementary service, and

setting up a new call in an existing multicall, over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, according to a criterion, either by

(i) setting up said new call on a new bearer, or

(ii) setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising offering a new subscriber-equipment-terminating call to a user by means of a call waiting supplementary service only when a maximum number of the bearers allowed has been used by the multicall.

17. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1, of controlling a multicall in a telecommunications system over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal~~, wherein said telecommunications system comprises two telecommunications networks of different generations, the first one of the telecommunications networks supporting both shared bearers and dedicated bearers for a multicall, and the second one of the telecommunications networks supporting only the shared bearers for a multicall, said method comprising:

setting up any new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal. when a criterion is met, by setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber terminal instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer, and

~~said method comprises an inter-network multicall handover comprising:~~

putting calls of the multicall subjected to an inter-network multicall handover irrespective of whether the calls have been in a dedicated bearer mode or a shared bearer mode, on a common shared bearer in said first network prior to the handover, and

carrying out a handover of said multicall onto a shared bearer in said second telecommunications network.

18. (Previously presented) A telecommunications system comprising an arrangement for controlling a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, the network being configured to set up a new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, when a criterion is met, by setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 18, wherein a decision whether the new bearer is required or whether said existing bearer is to be used is made by the network according to said criterion.

20. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 18, wherein said criterion is a preference of a user of said subscriber terminal.

21. (Previously Presented) A telecommunications system comprising an arrangement for controlling a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, the network being configured to set up a new call in an existing multicall, when a criterion is met, by setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls, instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer, and wherein a call setup signalling from said subscriber equipment to said network contains an indication whether the new bearer is required or whether said existing bearer is to be used.

22. (Currently Amended) A system ~~according to claim 18~~ comprising an arrangement for controlling a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, the network being configured to set up a new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, when a criterion is met, by setting up said new call on an existing

bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer, and

wherein said call setup signalling contains an indication which existing bearer is to be used,

and wherein the network is arranged to allocate a dedicated bearer to the new call by a default if no indication of any existing bearer to be used is received in said call setup signalling.

23. (Previously Presented) A telecommunications system comprising an arrangement for controlling a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, wherein

the network is configured to set up a new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, according to a criterion, either by

(i) setting up said new call on a new bearer, or

(ii) setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment; and

the subscriber equipment is arranged to send to the network a call setup message for changing a call currently being a shared bearer to use a new dedicated bearer, said message containing a transaction identifier of said call and an indication that a new dedicated bearer is requested, and

the network is responsive to said call setup message for allocating a new dedicated bearer and transferring the call indicated by the received transaction identifier to said allocated bearer.

24. (Currently Amended) A system ~~according to claim 18~~ comprising an arrangement for controlling a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, the network being configured to set up a new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, instead of by setting up said new call on a new bearer, and

wherein the subscriber changing a call currently using a dedicated bearer to use another bearer shared with at least another call, said message containing a transaction

identifier of said call having the dedicated bearer and a bearer ID indicating the shared bearer to be used, and the network is responsive to said call setup message for transferring the call indicated by the transaction identifier received to said existing bearer. r equipment is arranged to send to the network a call setup message for changing a call currently using a dedicated bearer to use another bearer shared with at least another call, said message containing a transaction identifier of said call having the dedicated bearer and a bearer ID indicating the shared bearer to be used, and the network is responsive to said call setup message for transferring the call indicated by the transaction identifier received to said existing bearer.

25. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 18, wherein the network is arranged to offer a new subscriber equipment terminating call to n user by a call waiting supplementary service on a shared bearer either always or only when a maximum number of the bearers allowed has been used by the multicall.

26. (Previously presented) A telecommunications system comprising an arrangement for controlling a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, the network being configured to set LIP a new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and subscriber equipment, according to a criterion, either by

(i) setting up said new call on a new bearer, or

(ii) setting up said new call on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer is shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber equipment, and

the network being further arranged to put an existing call on said existing bearer of said multicall into a hold mode prior to setting up a new call on said bearer.

27. (Previously presented) A subscriber terminal for a telecommunications system, said terminal being capable of having a multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal, the terminal being configured to be able to indicate at a setup stage of a new call in an existing multicall over a transmission path between a telecommunications network and a subscriber terminal that said new call is set up on an existing bearer such that said existing bearer will be shared by at least two calls of said multicall of said subscriber terminal.

28. (Original) A subscriber terminal according to claim 27, wherein said terminal is a mobile station for a mobile communications system.